I have been reading, both pro and cons, about the BPL initiative
being persued by FCC. While universal access to the Internet
soulds like a panacea, what is has the potential to destroy must be
preserved.
As a Radio Amateur, I am keen to the use of Amateur Radio as not
only a passtime, but a necessity as a secondary communications
channel, which could be used in time of an emergency.
The Noise level that BPL has to potential to generate, by all
acocunts, from 1.8Mhz to 80Mhz, would virtually wipe out all
activity on HF bands. That would resort to only VHF and UHF
channels being not affected by BPL. Since those bands are
considered line-of-site communications, the idea of long distance
communications via HF Radio would be eliminated. Only short haul
communications (i.e. Cell Phones) would be feasible.
I am a computer professional, experienced both personally and
professionally with the Noise generated by current "last-mile"
internet solutions (Cable, DSL, Dial-Up). These have all had
technical problems, and have been solved by hard work, not
political whim.
While the call for "Universal Access" sounds pleasant, especially
to rural areas, this sounds more like a "get rich quick" scheme, so
that the Utilities can cash in on the "latest craze".
I truly hope that BPL could be designed so that interference is
reduced/eliminated. But rushing to judgement before all the
technical information is in does the public, and the FCC's
credibility no good.